

Q and A with Juliette Lange, Admissions Director of Lycee International de Los Angeles (LILA)

Description



Juliette Lange, LILA's admissions director

I'm thrilled to welcome one of my favorite admissions directors, Juliette Lange, M.Ed., of Lycée International de Los Angeles (LILA), to the blog today! Juliette graciously agreed to answer my questions about LILA admissions. I first met Juliette when I wrote a [school profile](#) about LILA.

1. How would you describe the educational philosophy of LILA?

LILA teaches a bilingual program from preschool through 12th grade culminating in the French Baccalauréat or the International Baccalaureate. Students are taught to read, write, and speak both languages by the end of their elementary education. Satisfying both the Common Core State Standards and the French Ministry of Education's requirements, necessitates a rigorous schedule; the percentage of each language of instruction varies at each grade level.

2. LILA is a dual immersion language school. Does this mean if students enter at kindergarten they will speak French when they graduate at 12th grade?

LILA aims to offer more than the mere knowledge of at least two languages. Our ultimate goal is to form fully bi-literate students capable of functioning in two linguistic worlds. To achieve this goal, LILA specifically avoids dividing students based upon their dominant language. At the very foundation of the educational program is a policy of integration: young Americans must be integrated into French classes and French children must study English along with their American classmates. Thus, by getting to know one another, students are able to appreciate both the French and American cultures; they are able to compete in both systems; they are able to feel at home in an American living room and Ã l'aise at a French dinner table.

3. What do you look for in prospective families for kindergarten? What about for 6th or 7th grade?

Ultimately we look for enthusiasm and an understanding of what a bilingual education means â€” for commitment to the project. At 6th grade, it takes a very special family and a very different kind of student to be able to integrate and follow a program that is designed for French native speakers. This is usually only possible for those already coming from France, another Lycee or school teaching the same curriculum or a student who is already speaking French at home.

4. Do you have to be French to be part of the school's community?

Absolutely not. In fact most of our students are not French. What is paramount is an openness to the French culture and to the French philosophy of education.



Lycée International de Los Angeles, Los Feliz

5. Applying for kindergarten in L.A. can be very stressful for parents and kids. Can you give our readers some tips for surviving the application process?

You need to be yourself and to be ready to convince us of why you want this for your family and your child. Often this is about showing us that you understand different cultures and what it means to be immersed in another language. Sometimes, itâ€™s a sheer commitment to offering this to your child because you would have so wished it for yourself.

6. In your opinion, what are some common mistakes parents make when applying to LILA?

Parents are often not prepared for the work involved and the cultural understanding required in having their child educated in a language and an educational system that is not their own.

7. Does LILA offer financial aid?

Yes. Financial aid is offered from the second year onward. In past years, up to 25% of LILAâ€™s student body has received some degree of financial aid, either from France (15%) or directly from LILA (10%).

8. What are some of LILAâ€™s qualities that youâ€™re most proud of?

At LILA we adopt ways of thinking and expression that reflect an appreciation for cultural differences and multiple world views. Diverse groups learn more from each other when exchanging different points of view, introducing new pieces of information, and confronting alternative ideas. LILAâ€™s small and nurturing classes facilitate the sharing of different viewpoints.

Being immersed in a truly multicultural environment helps develop the ability to better understand oneâ€™s own culture â€“ what makes it different, but also in which ways it is similar. This, in turn, helps maintain a strong sense of oneâ€™s own background. â€”Teachers, staff and students come from all over the world, each bringing their own experiences and perspectives. â€”Our students study and live in a world community every day.



LILA's new secondary school in
Burbank

LILA just opened its new secondary school in Burbank. Congratulations!

For more information, please visit, www.lilaschool.com

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